

August 4, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Docket #: 03-167

Dear Ms. Dortch:

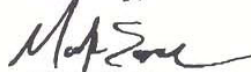
SBC Indiana recently applied to the Federal Communications Commission for permission to provide long distance service in Indiana. I am writing to support that application.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed by Congress in order to bring competition to the telephone industry. The intent was to open the market and level the playing field, giving consumers and businesses more choices and, ultimately, lower prices. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) has investigated the SBC application and found sufficient competition exist in Indiana; the IURC has issued a preliminary endorsement of the SBC application. I am pleased that the matter is finally before the FCC for final consideration. I strongly encourage you to approve the application so that Indiana consumers and businesses will realize the benefits of open telecommunications competition.

Your agency has already approved full and open competition in over dozens of other states. Without question, the local phone market in this state is just as open and competitive. As other states have seen, SBC Indiana's entry into the long distance market will spur competition even further here. Competition is good for all business.

Thank you for considering my petition on behalf of SBC Indiana.

Sincerely,



Mark Eagan
President & CEO

The Commerce Center

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